

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Northumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Northumberland County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
207 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sunbury

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
17th

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

COUNTY:
Northumberland

CODE:
097

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Northumberland County

STREET AND NUMBER:
207 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sunbury

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Court House Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
207 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sunbury

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None known.

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Penna. Northumberland
 COUNTY: Northumberland
 ENTRY NUMBER:
 DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present appearance of the courthouse does not differ substantially from its original appearance. The courthouse is a three-story, brick building. A three-story wing, which was added in 1911, extends to the east. The front facade of the building has three arched doors surrounded by massive stone work and topped by a stone balcony. This stone work and the striking corner quoins of the building were probably made of brownstone quarried near Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. Second and third story windows on the front facade are of Italianate style, topped by dripstone. Windows on other elevations of the building are two stories in height and contain small windowpanes arranged in a crisscross pattern. All second-story windows are recessed. The cornice on the front is bracketed; elsewhere on the building the cornices are dentilled.

The clock tower remains as originally built except for some ornamentation at its base. Its dome is copper (now painted). The clock was built by E. Howard of Boston and installed in 1872. The bell in the tower was presented to the citizens of Sunbury by Simon Cameron, (Lincoln's Secretary of War), a native of the area.

In the interior, a marble tiled floor on the first floor is an original feature. A room on the second floor of the addition has a coffered ceiling of wood in squares, with outlined designs in color.

Alterations to the building have not been extensive. The first-floor windows originally had small panes of glass; nearly all these panes have been replaced. The ornaments originally on the four extended corners of the building have been removed. In 1911, the transverse hall was made into rooms on either side of the central hall, and the doorways to the east and west became windows. They retain their original massive stone door frames on the exterior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Northumberland County Courthouse is a fine example of the 19th century Romanesque architecture. No architect was hired to design this building; in 1865 the county commissioners decided to copy the Lycoming County Courthouse built in 1861 and designed by Samuel Sloan, a Philadelphia architect of some note. He also designed the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society. The Northumberland County Courthouse is practically identical with the Old Lycoming County Courthouse, which was razed in 1969.

The courthouse is significant because it has the massiveness and solidity of Romanesque masonry that became lost to architectural design when steel girders came into use. This type of public building is becoming more scarce throughout the country.

The political and historic significance of the courthouse is greater than that of any other extant building in the county. It is a symbol of the life of the county in an age of newly discovered wealth and population increase, at the time of the Civil War. The new wealth created by the mining of anthracite coal, railroads, and industry, was accompanied by poverty and unrest, which provided the climate for the Mollie Maguire murders which shook the area for years. The Northumberland County courthouse was the scene of the trial and conviction of the last "Mollie", Peter McManus, for murder in 1878. The courthouse was also the scene of ejection suits which settled boundary disputes, thus bringing stability to the area. The courthouse is therefore a bridge linking the past political and legal history of the county with that of the present. Destruction of the building will be damaging to that continuity of county history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Everts and Stewart, "History of Northumberland County", publisher - Everts and Stewart, 1876.
 Bell, Herbert C., "History of Northumberland County", Brown Runk and Co., publisher, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40°	51'	44"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76°	47'	42"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Helen J. Schaffer, Elizabeth H. Kury, James J. Rorke, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: **Northumberland County Historical Society** DATE: **7-12-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
212 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Sunbury** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William J. Wewer
WILLIAM J. WEWER

Title Executive Director
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date 10/25/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NORTHUMBERLAND
County Courthouse

1965

SUNBURY QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 SUNBURY 15' QUADRANGLE

5665 1 N 1/4
SNYDERTOWN

348

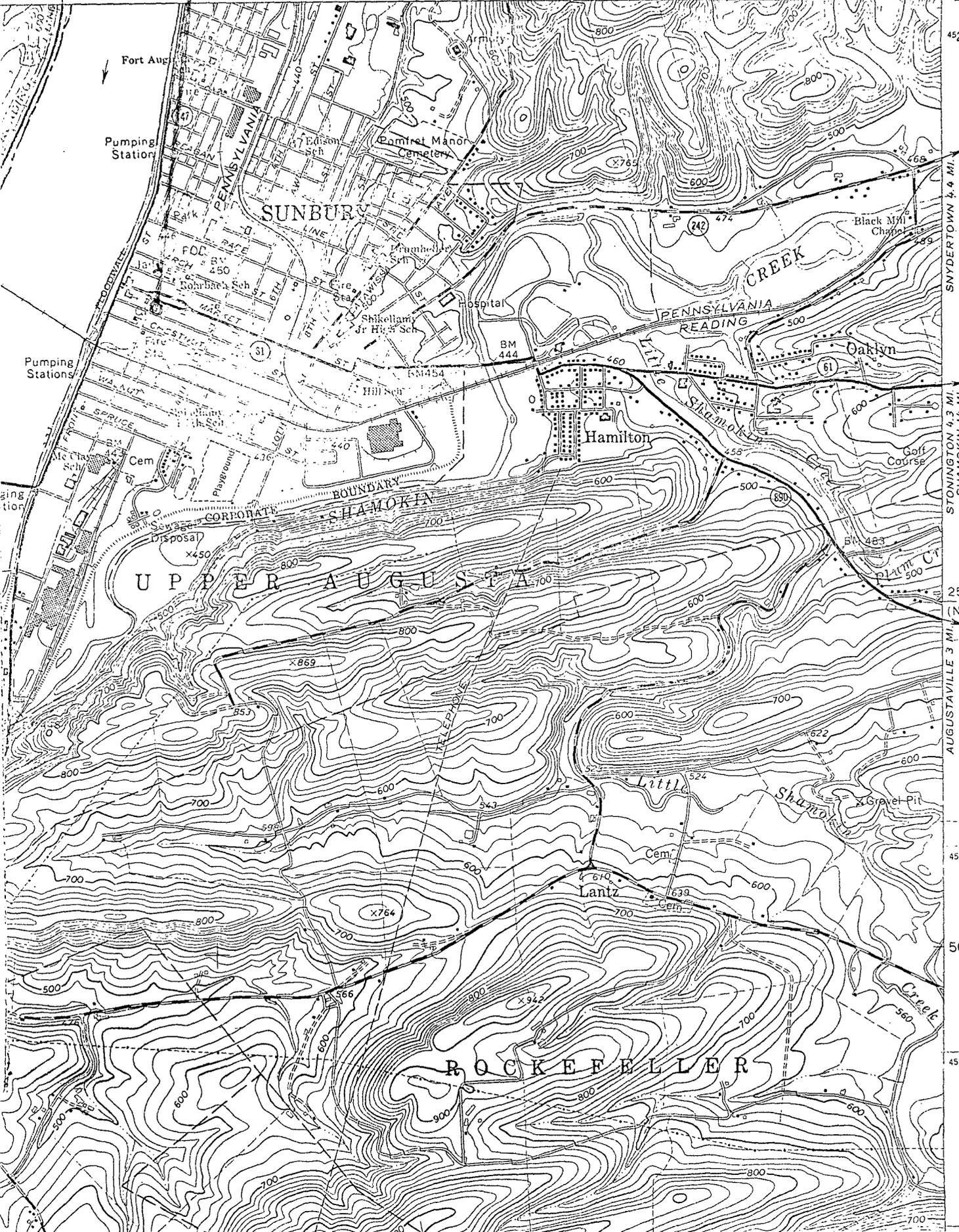
DANVILLE 12 MI.
NORTHUMBERLAND 1 MI.
47'30"

350

2 270 000 FEET (NORTH)

352

76° 45'
40° 52' 30"



4526

SNYDERTOWN 3.4 MI.

STONINGTON 4.3 MI.
SHAMOKIN 14 MI.

250 000 FEET
(NORTH)

AUGUSTAVILLE 3 MI.

4522

50'

4521

